KENNEDY CHARGES PUBLISHERS DROVE FAMILY INTO SUIT

Says Both Harper & Row and Look Barred Access to Revised Manuscript

TERMS POINT CRITICAL

Book Concern, Defending Its Action, Asserts the Public Has Right to the Facts

Text of the statement by Canfield is on Page 36.

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Senator Robert F. Kennedy said last night that neither the publisher of "The Death of a President" nor Look magazine had allowed representatives of the Kennedy family to see the versions of the works they now plan to publish until after a lawsuit was filed last Friday.

"They did not think that we could afford to sue. They did not think it, to the point of not letting anybody see the manuscript that they now plan to publish," the New York Democrat said in a telephone interview from Sun Valley, Idaho, where he is vacationing with his family.

"This is what pushed us to the suit," Mr. Kennedy said. "We didn't want to go through with a suit, and we spent a lot of time trying to avoid that.

"But not letting us see the manuscript, after they supposedly made corrections and deletions, drove us to that point of suing."

Saw Original Manuscript

Senator Kennedy added that, after Mrs. John F. Kennedy's original complaint was made known to the author, William Manchester, and to the publisher, Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., she was told bby Harper & Row that her representatives could not see the manuscript.

Yesterday, Harper & Row defended its decision to publish the book and said that the people had a "right to know the true facts of this awesome tragedy"—ths assassination of President Kennedy.

Cass Canfield, chairman of the company's executive committee, criticizing the Kennedy family by suggesting that if anuy of the mhad read the book "the present situation might have been avoided."

Contract Violation Charged

Last Friday Mrs. Kennedy filed a suit in State Supreme Court to prevent both the publication of the book and the serialization in Look magazine. Her suit was based on the contention that Mr. Manchester had violated a contract with Senator Kenndy, which provided that the book could not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, and that it must be approved by Mrs. Kennedy and the Sen-

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ator.

Early last summer representatives of the Kennedy family were allowed to see the manuscript as originally written, the Senator said in the interview last night.

When objections were then made, presumably changes were made, he said, but no Kennedy representative was allowed to see the re-edited manuscript.

A spokesman for the Senator said last night that, after the litigation began the Kennedy family's representatives were allowed to see the excerpts of the book that Look plans to publish.

Senator Kennedy said that he had not seen Mr. Canfield's statement. However, last night in a statement issued from Mrs. Kennedy office in New York a family spokesman said:

"No amount of rhetoric about 'historical accuracy' or the 'public's right to know' can alter the nature of this controversy—whether Mr. Manchester and the publishers broke the written agreement, from which breach enormous profits will apparently flow."

"The question is not the book's 'right to live'—no one has denied that right—the question is the right of Mrs. Kennedy and her children to live with a minimum of privacy and dignity, free from the publication of intimate details of their lives at a time of great sorrow—details which bare no conceivable relation to history," the statement continued. It ended this way:

"Although neither Senator Kennedy nor Mrs. John F. Kennedy has read the Manchester manuscript in its entirity—authorized representatives having done so—both Manchester and the publishers know that Mrs. Kennedy was well aware of the personal passages to which she objected."

"Indeed Mrs. Kennedy spoke directly to Mr. Manchester on at least one occasion, outlining her objections to those parts of the manuscript, parts which she felt unnecessarily invaded her privacy and that of her children. And although he agreed to delete them from the published version, neither he nor Harper & Row, nor Look magazine has done so, nor have they even in the period of this dispute permitted Mrs. Kennedy or her representatives access to the manuscript."

"And this despite repeated assurances, throughout this entire period, by Harper & Row that the contract would be honored.

"Since representatives of Harper & Row participated in making the agreement this suti

is based on, it is surprising that Mr. Canfield's statement does not mention it."